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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/435,770	11/08/1999	TAKUO YAMAMOTO	YAMAMOTO=16A	5666
1444	7590	07/01/2004	EXAMINER	
BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C. 624 NINTH STREET, NW SUITE 300 WASHINGTON, DC 20001-5303			FRONDA, CHRISTIAN L	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			1652	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/435,770	YAMAMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner Christian L Fronda	Art Unit 1652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,9 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,9 and 13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 November 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/8/2004 has been entered.
2. In the **AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION** dated April 22, 2004, Applicants have canceled claims 2-8, 10-12, and 14-58.
3. Claims 1, 9, and 13 are under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.
5. Claims 1, 9, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1, 9, and 13, as written, do not sufficiently distinguish over nucleic acids, proteins, cells, or antibodies as they exist naturally because the claims do not particularly point out any non-naturally occurring differences between the claimed products and the naturally occurring products. In the absence of the hand of man, the naturally occurring products are considered non-statutory subject matter. *See Diamond v. Chakrabarty*, 447 U.S. 303, 206 USPQ 193 (1980). The claims should be amended to indicate the hand of the inventor, e.g., by insertion of "Isolated" or "Purified". See MPEP 2105.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any

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person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 1, 9, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for an isolated non-reducing saccharide-forming enzyme obtainable from *Arthrobacter* sp. S34 (FERM BP-6450) comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; does not reasonably provide enablement for any non-reducing saccharide-forming enzyme having an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 or any non-reducing saccharide-forming enzyme obtainable from any microorganism of the genus *Arthrobacter*. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Applicants' arguments filed April 22, 2004, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's position is that the specification provides enablement since it is asserted that it would be easy for one of ordinary skill in the art to replace one or more amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 1 to make the claimed invention. The Examiner disagrees for reasons of record as supplemented below.

SEQ ID NO: 1 consists of 756 amino acid residues. To have at least 80% identity to SEQ ID NO: 1, an amino acid sequence can have no more than 151 amino acid residues that are different from SEQ ID NO: 1. The specification has not provided guidance as to the specific amino acid residues that can be changed without affecting enzyme activity nor has the specification provided guidance for specific amino acid residues that cannot be changed without affecting enzyme activity. In absence of such guidance, one of ordinary skill in the art must perform an enormous amount experimentation to search and screen for the amino acid residues that can be changed and yet still retain enzyme activity. The cited references of Cunningham et al. and Holm et al. do not provide teachings regarding which 151 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO: 1 can be changed without affecting enzyme activity. Thus, the amount of experimentation to make the claimed invention is undue and outside the scope of routine experimentation.

The Examiner disagrees with Applicants' position that it would be easy for one of ordinary skill in the art to clone the DNA encoding the enzyme of the present invention since teachings regarding searching for or screening for the claimed invention is not guidance for making the claimed invention. One of ordinary skill in the art must search for the DNA encoding the claimed enzyme in any microorganism of the genus *Arthrobacter*, express the DNA and isolate the produced enzyme, and then determine whether the enzyme has the recited properties. Thus, the amount of experimentation to make the claimed invention is undue and outside the scope of routine experimentation.

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Conclusion

8. No claim is allowed.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian L Fronda whose telephone number is (571)272-0929. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday between 9:00AM - 5:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura N Achutamurthy can be reached on (571)272-0928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CLF



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